

TALES FROM THE TOMB

pdc

JUNE 1970

50¢

FEATURING:

THE THING FROM THE GRAVE

FIRE MONSTER

PLUS OTHER
WEIRD TALES
FROM THE
TOMB



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MONSTER-LOVERS: START A "YE-ECH-CHY"

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have on hand, you lucky
ghouls! Ye-ech-chy!)

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TALES FROM THE TOMB

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IN THE FEARFUL HOURS
BETWEEN BLACK MIDNIGHT
AND THE GREY OF DAWN
A STRANGE GLOW BATHES
EVERYTHING---IT IS A
PENETRATING GLOW...
A DEADLY GLOW BECAUSE
IT IS...

THE THING FROM THE GRAVE

YOU MUST PAY
THE PRICE OF
EVIL!

IN A DOCTOR'S OFFICE A MAN SEEKS
ADVICE WHICH STARTS HIM DOWN THE
DARK PATH OF FEAR AND EVIL...

I STRONGLY SUGGEST
A VACATION IN THE
COUNTRY, STEVE!
YOUR NERVES ARE
REALLY ACTING
UP!

I'LL DO
AS YOU
SAY, DOC!

THE DOCTOR WAS
RIGHT! THE COUNTRY
AIR MAKES ME FEEL
GOOD! LOOKS LIKE
SOMEONE COMING
DOWN THE ROAD!

DIE!

ARCHH



OUT OF THE COOL COUNTRY NIGHT A FIGURE APPEARS... BEAUTIFUL, PALE... COMPELLING...

HER FACE IS LIKE MARBLE... I CAN'T TAKE MY EYES OFF HER...

AND AS THE DAYS DRAG, STEVE MOVES INTO A WORLD OF HIS OWN... COMPLETE ADORATION FOR THE STRANGE GIRL...

LET'S STAND HERE... I WANT TO LOOK AT YOU ALONE!

SHE LOOKS SO COLD AND UNEARTHLY!

IF YOU WISH, STEVE!

HOW DO YOU DO? I DON'T BELIEVE WE'VE MET!



HER LIDS SEEM TO BE COATED WITH ICE AND YET SHE'S LOVELY... SO DESIRABLE!

I WANT TO MARRY YOU, LAURA! I'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO LIVE WITHOUT YOU!

OF COURSE I'LL MARRY YOU, STEVE! I LOVE YOU!

SUDDENLY A VISION OF LOVE BEGINS TO FADE BEFORE THE SHOCKED EYES OF THE LOVER--AND THE WARM AIR BECOMES CHILLED WITH DREAD...

LAURA
WH-??

DARLING! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT? I THOUGHT FOR A MOMENT...

WHAT'S WRONG, STEVE? YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'VE SEEN A GHOST!





IT MUST HAVE BEEN MY IMAGINATION OR A TRICK OF THE MOONLIGHT...

THE WEDDING DAY ARRIVES... BUT WITH IT ARE LOW MURMERS, MOCKING LOOKS AND UNSPOKEN FEARS...

SHE'S AN HOUR LATE! WONDER WHAT'S HAPPENED TO HER?

WITH REVENGE, STEVE SEEKS TO LOCATE THE GIRL...

MISS GORDON LEFT HER ADDRESS! IT'S 138 PIEDMONT AVENUE, PARKVILLE!

THANK YOU SO MUCH!



SHE'S GONE! SHE LEFT ME HERE LIKE A FOOL FOR THEM TO LAUGH AT!

HA HA HO HO!



SHE THINKS SHE'S TRICKED ME WITH HER WHITE FACE AND COLD RED LIPS... I CAN SEE HER STRANGE SMILE-- BUT SHE'LL PAY FOR THIS!

YES, I'M LAURA'S MOTHER! SHE'S IN THE GRAVEYARD NOW... BUT I DON'T UNDERSTAND!

YOU WILL!



WHO ARE YOU?? WHAT DO YOU WANT WITH ME?



SO I'VE FOUND YOU AT LAST! AND IN A VERY APPROPRIATE SETTING, TOO!

SUDDENLY, IN BLIND FURY, HATRED AND FRUSTRATION,
STEVE'S FINGERS TIGHTEN AROUND THE GIRL'S THROAT...

DIE!!

GRGHH

LAURA GORDON... DIED
1942... WH-- THEN--
WHO?? NO!

NO!!

LAURA GORDON
BORN 1912
DIED 1942
AGE 30

A NAME ON A TOMBSTONE AND ALL
AT ONCE THE TRUTH STRIKES AT A
TERRIFIED MURDERER!

LAURA'S
BEEN DEAD FOR
TEN YEARS! I
MUST'VE KILLED
HER TWIN
SISTER!

I MUST GET
BACK TO MY
ROOM! I FEEL
AS IF I WERE
FOLLOWING
ME...

COME,
SISTER... HE
MUST NOT
ESCAPE!

LET US
DANCE ABOUT
HIM! HE HASN'T
PAID THE PRICE
FOR THE BLOOD
ON HIS
HANDS!

AHHHHH

GO
AWAY...

I MUST
GET OUT OF
HERE!!

HE HE

AS THE DAYS PASS, THE HUNTED MAN FLEES DESPERATELY
FROM THE DANCING FURIES...

HOW DID I GET
HERE? MAYBE
IF I SPEAK
TO... OH...

HA HA
HEE HAA

IN THE SINISTER STILLNESS OF THE
EVENING, A GRIM SHADOW FALLS ACROSS
TWO GRAVES! TWO RESTLESS SPIRITS ARE
SILENCED FOREVER AS STEVE'S BODY DANGLES
IN THE FINAL DANCE OF DEATH...

DANCE
DANCE!

"I'LL NEVER
BE FREE OF
THEM... NEVER!"

THERE'S ONLY
ONE ESCAPE FOR
ME-- AND I MUST
TAKE IT!

LAURA GORDON
BORN 1912
DIED 1942

THE
END

DEVIL'S PLAGUE

HEE! HEE! YOU WONDER WHO I AM, EH? WELL, I'M THE **BLACK DEATH**! NO MATTER HOW YOU MAY TRY, YOU CAN'T ESCAPE ME! MY BONY TALONS WILL GET YOU, NO MATTER WHERE YOU FLEE—AND I'LL DRAG YOU INTO THE CHARNEL HOUSE WITH THE REST OF THE MOULDERING SKELETONS! HEE-HEE!

A FEW CENTURIES AGO, WHEN THE WORLD WAS STEEPED IN IGNORANCE AND SUPERSTITION, A DREADFUL PLAGUE SWEEP ACROSS ALL EUROPE, MOWING DOWN MILLIONS! IN THE CITY OF **PARIS**, CITIZENS DIED LIKE FLIES, THEIR BODIES FLUNG INTO THE STREETS TO BE PICKED UP BY THE WAGONS COLLECTING THE CORPSES...

MAKE WAY FOR THE DEAD!
MAKE WAY FOR THE DEAD!!

INSIDE THE STRICKEN CITY, TWO YOUNG LOVERS FIND THEMSELVES ALONE AND FILLED WITH FEAR... DESPERATELY, THEY TALK...

OSCAR FRAGA

OH, MICHEL, WHAT SHALL WE DO? ALL OUR RELATIVES ARE DEAD OF THE PLAGUE! WE ARE ALONE!

COURAGE, DENISE... WE MUST LIVE FOR EACH OTHER! WE WILL FIND A WAY!

WE MUST LEAVE THIS ACCURSED CITY AND SEEK OUR FUTURE IN A NEW HOME!

I LOVE YOU WITH ALL MY HEART, MICHEL! I WILL OBEY YOU AND FOLLOW WHEREVER YOU LEAD!



BUT AT THE CITY GATES THEY FIND THEIR WAY BARRED...

NOBODY IS TO LEAVE THE CITY! THEY MIGHT SPREAD THIS DEVILS PLAGUE TO OTHER PARTS OF THE LAND...

BUT WE MUST GO--WE MUST!



ORDERS ARE ORDERS... IF YOU TRY TO PASS, WE WILL BE FORCED TO KILL YOU... THEN YOU WILL BE JUST AS DEAD AS IF THE PLAGUE GOT YOU!

OH!



THE DISAPPOINTED COUPLE WALK BACK INTO THE STREETS...

MICHEL-- WE ARE DOOMED!

I MUST THINK OF SOMETHING... SOME WAY...



THEIR AIMLESS STEPS TAKE THEM PAST THE CATHEDRAL WHERE A STately FUNERAL PROCESSION WENDS ITS WAY... THEY STOP FOR A MOMENT TO QUESTION...



THOSE OBSEQUIES MUST BE FOR A PERSON OF GREAT RANK! WHO IS IT?

THE DAUGHTER OF THE DUC DE SAINT VALLIER DIED THIS MORNING! SHE WAS YOUNG AND BEAUTIFUL!



EVEN SO, THE ORDER IS THAT ALL CORPSES MUST BE DISPOSED OF IMMEDIATELY! THE KING HIMSELF SIGNED IT!

YES, BUT BY A SPECIAL DISPENSATION HER BODY IS TO BE SHIPPED DOWN THE RIVER TO ARGENTELL FOR BURIAL! IT GOES AT NINE TONIGHT!



DENISE! I HAVE A PLAN... SUCH A TERRIBLE ONE THAT I SHUDDER TO THINK OF IT! BUT LISTEN--HERE IT IS--



DENISE BLANCHES AS SHE HEARS MICHEL UNFOLD HIS IDEA, BUT SHE AGREES...

ALL RIGHT, MICHEL! IT'S HORRIBLE, BUT IT SEEMS TO BE OUR ONLY CHANCE TO ESCAPE!



SO LATE THAT AFTERNOON, THE YOUNG COUPLE FURTIVELY SLINK INTO THE SHADOWS OF THE LOFTY CATHEDRAL, CARRYING AN EMPTY SACK...



NO ONE IS AROUND... THEY ARE ALL FULL OF FEAR OF THE YOUNG GIRL WHO DIED OF PESTILENCE!

WE MUST WORK QUICK!



WHILE DENISE WATCHES FOR GUARDS, MICHEL UNSCREWS THE WOODEN CASKET TOP...

THESE SCREWS COME LOOSE EASILY! SO FAR... SO GOOD!



And...

UGH! IT'S A GOOD THING SHE'S NOT HEAVY!

HURRY, MICHEL! SOMEBODY MAY COME BACK!



INTO THE SACK SHE GOES! SO MUCH FOR THAT! NOW--



COME, MY DEAR! BE BRAVE, DARLING! ALL WILL COME OUT ALL RIGHT!

NO! NO! MICHEL, I CANNOT!!



NEARLY SWOONING WITH TERROR, DENISE GETS INTO THE COFFIN...

OH, MICHEL... I'M AFRAID!

COURAGE!--JUST FOR A SHORT TIME, THEN WE WILL BE FAR AWAY AND HAPPY TOGETHER!



HERE IS A FLASK OF WATER... AND REMEMBER... NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS, DON'T MAKE A SOUND! I'LL SNEAK ABOARD THE BOAT BEFORE IT SAILS AND I'LL LET YOU OUT WHEN WE'RE BEYOND THE CITY!



GOODBYE, MICHEL... I'LL BE BRAVE! GO, NOW! SOMEONE MAY COME AND FIND YOU!

GOOD BYE, FOR A LITTLE WHILE, MY DARLING!



MICHEL LOOSELY SCREWS THE TOP BACK ON...



THEN, SHOULDERING THE CORPSE... HE SLIPS OUT OF THE GLOOMY CATHEDRAL...



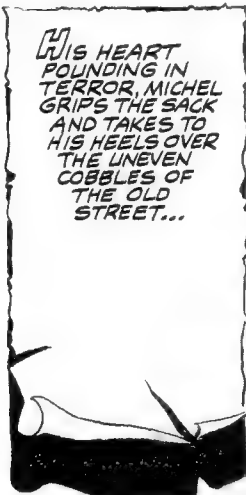
BUT SHORTLY...

THE CITY GUARDS!

HALT!



HIS HEART POUNDING IN TERROR, MICHEL GRIPS THE SACK AND TAKES TO HIS HEELS OVER THE UNEVEN COBBLES OF THE OLD STREET...



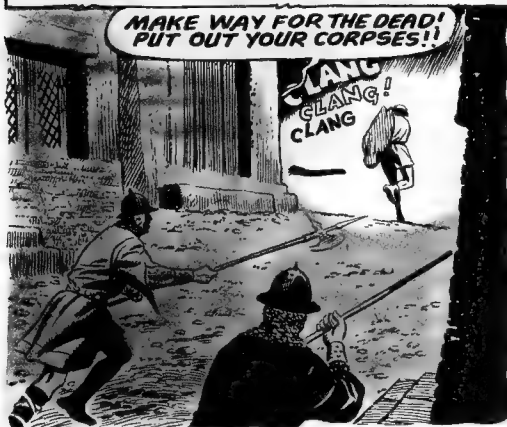
STOP HIM!

HE'S A LOOTER!



As MICHEL FLEES FOR HIS LIFE, THE OMINOUS CALL OF THE CHARNEL WAGON COMES FROM NEARBY, AND THE BELL TOLLS ITS CALL OF DEATH...

MAKE WAY FOR THE DEAD!
PUT OUT YOUR CORPSES!!



FACED WITH THIS SPINE-CHILLING REMINDER OF THE PESTILENCE, THE GUARDS COWER BACK, FEARFUL OF CONTAMINATION...

BACK! BACK!!
THE PLAGUE MAY
TOUCH US!



MICHEL MAKES GOOD HIS ESCAPE! HE COMES INTO THE YARD OF AN OLD MANSION...

NOT A SOUL LEFT ALIVE IN THE BIG HOUSE!
FORTUNATELY, I REMEMBER THIS OLD, DRY
WELL ON THE GROUNDS! IT SHOULD
SERVE MY PURPOSE!



GOD REST THIS POOR GIRL'S
SOUL! I HOPE SHE UNDERSTANDS
THAT THIS IS OUR ONLY
CHANCE...



MICHEL HURRIEDLY MAKES HIS WAY TO THE BANKS OF THE SEINE, WHERE A BOAT IS LOADING UP...

IT'S GETTING DARK! THEY MUST
HAVE BROUGHT THE CASKET ON
BY NOW...



HE MINGLES WITH THE LABORERS AND GOES ABOARD...

IT'LL SOON
BE TIME
TO CAST
OFF!

GOOD! I'LL BE
GLAD TO GET
AWAY FROM THIS
PLACE OF DEATH!



As THE BOAT SAILS FROM THE QUAY...

AT LAST! SOON I'LL BE
UNITED WITH MY
BELOVED!



SOON, WITH THE SHADOWS OF PESTILENCE RIDDEN PARIS BEHIND THEM, THE SHIP SLIPS INTO THE CURRENT AND HEADS INTO THE BLUE NIGHT DOWNSTREAM WITH THE WORRIED MICHEL ABOARD...

NO SIGN OF THE COFFIN ON THE OPEN DECK...THEY MUST HAVE PUT IT BELOW--



MICHEL SEARCHES THE CARGO BELOW DECK...

WHERE IS IT? WHERE CAN THEY HAVE PUT IT?



HE STUMBLES FRANTICALLY AMONG THE CRATES AND THE BARRELS...

WHERE IS THE WOODEN BOX? DENISE IS WAITING FOR ME! I CAN'T FIND HER!



HE DUCKS INTO THE SHADOWS AS TWO BOATMEN APPROACH...

HERE, MON BRAVE! NO ONE WILL SEE--WE'LL TAKE A DRAUGHT OF THIS COGNAC...IT WILL WARD OFF THE NIGHT CHILL!



I'M GLAD WE DIDN'T TAKE ON THAT BODY OF THE GIRL WHO DIED OF THE PLAGUE!

YES! HER FATHER THE DUKE WAS GOING TO SEND THE CORPSE TO ARGENTEUIL, BUT HE CHANGED HIS MIND AND HAD HER BURIED RIGHT AFTER SUNDOWN!



A FEW MOMENTS LATER, A FORM JUMPS FROM THE SHIP...

DENISE! I WILL JOIN YOU-- I WILL DIE, TOO!



SEE? WHAT DID I TELL YOU! THEY THINK THEY CAN ELUDE ME, BUT I'M TOO CLEVER FOR THEM! TRY AS THEY MAY, THEY CAN'T ESCAPE THE FINAL CLUTCH OF THE BLACK DEATH!



THE END

DEATH AND PHANTOMS ARE NOT ALWAYS AS COLD AS ICE...THEY CAN BE AS RED-HOT AS FLAME! WHEN A LIVING MAN IS ELECTROCUTED, OR "BURNED"... HE CAN RETURN AS A RAGING INFERNO OF RED-HOT REVENGE THAT EATS ENEMIES AND KILLERS IN THE BLASTING HATE OF ---



IN AN OLD AND RICH BUSINESS FIRM, THREE PARTNERS WANT THE HEAD OF THE FIRM TO DIE...

WE ALL HATE HIM--
BUT NOBODY'S GOT
THE COURAGE TO
KILL HIM!

IF HE COULD BE
KILLED--WE'D ALL
BE RICH!



SUDDENLY, A SHOT RINGS OUT FROM THE PRIVATE VAULT ROOM... AND IN RUSHES THE HEAD OF THE FIRM...

OUR CASHIER
COMMITTED SUICIDE!
HE STOLE OVER
\$80,000!! HE LEFT
THIS NOTE...



THE SUICIDE'S NOTE...

*I confess that
I stole over \$80,000
I can't bear to live,
I've bought a gun...
This is the end
John Breslow*

INTO THREE EVIL MINDS THE SAME EVIL PLAN IS BORN...



IN THE STATE'S PRISON A MONTH LATER...

I'LL HAVE
MY REVENGE!
REVENGE!



AS THE BLASTING HEAT OF ELECTROCUTION
DIVIDES BODY AND SOUL--A GHOST IS BORN!
A GHOST OF FIRE!

AND I'LL GET
REVENGE! I'LL
KILL! KILL!

THE DOCTOR CAN
NOW PRONOUNCE THIS
MAN DEAD--



I FELT A CHILL
OF EVIL... BUT IT
FELT LIKE A
HOT FLAME!

HA-HA! NO ONE
CAN ACTUALLY
SEE ME... I CAN
DO ANYTHING!



OUR PARTNERS-IN-CRIME DO NOT BELIEVE IN GHOSTS...

HE'S DEAD!
HE'LL NEVER
BOTHER US
AGAIN!

WE'RE RICH!
THE FIRM
IS OURS!

S-A-A-Y--
ISN'T
THAT FIRE
GETTING
HOT?



THE GHOST OF FIRE READS THE GHOST OF A
NOTE...

I WAS INNOCENT!
BUT I'M DEAD--
DEAD--



GOODNIGHT,
GENTLEMEN!
RICH AND HAPPY
DREAMS!

I MUST GET MY
HANDS ON THEM!
BUT HOW--
HOW?



THE NEXT MORNING...

I LIKE A CHEERFUL FIRE--
AND THE CARETAKER
HASN'T BUILT
ONE...



JUST TWO BIG
LOGS... AND
IT'S HOTTER
ALREADY!

I CAN ALMOST
REACH HIM--
ALMOST--



A DEADLY SENSE OF FEAR GROWS IN THE ROOM...

STRANGE! I'M HOT--
AND YET-- I'M COLD WITH
FRIGHT! I WONDER WHY--?

I CAN
ALMOST
GRAB HIM
NOW...



I'M SCARED!
I'VE GOT TO
GET OUT OF
THIS ROOM!

NEVER! YOU'LL
NEVER
GET OUT!



AND ONE MURDERER GOES TO HIS FIERY DOOM!

THE LAW "BURNED"
ME! NOW YOU MUST
BURN!



I'LL HIDE YOUR BONES IN
THESE DEEP ASHES! THEY'LL
NEVER BE FOUND... UNTIL
I HAVE TWO MORE VICTIMS--
TWO MORE VICTIMS!





THE THIRD MAN ENTERS THE ROOM OF BURNING FLAME...



WONDER WHERE MY PARTNERS ARE--AND WHAT'S THAT STRANGE ODOR IN THE AIR?

THE CARETAKER MUST'VE THROWN RUBBISH INTO THE FIRE... PHEW... ALMOST SMELLS LIKE BURNING FLESH... BUT THAT CAN'T BE...



BUT THE GHOST OF FIRE HAS A TRICK.

HE LOVES MONEY--HAH! I CAN SHAPE THE FLAMES TO LOOK LIKE PILES OF MONEY!

SOMEONE THREW A BUNDLE OF CURRENCY INTO THE FIRE!



I MUST SAVE THE MONEY--EVEN IF I GET BURNED!

THAT'S IT, GREEDY! COME CLOSER--CLOSER...



Then...

EYYAAH! DON'T EAT ME... DON'T EAT...

HA! YES! LIKE THE FLAMES ONCE ATE THE NOTE THAT COULD HAVE PROVED MY INNOCENCE! DIE... DIE!!



AND A DREADFUL FEAST GOES ON IN THE FLAMES...

MURDERERS! EAT EACH OTHER! SO DO ALL MURDERERS END IN DEATH!



LATER THAT MORNING--THE CARETAKER DISCOVERS...

BONES AND FLESH--AND SKULLS--UGH! OOOH!



THE END



OUT OF A BOYHOOD RIVALRY THERE BURGEONED A TERRIBLE FLOWER — A DEADLY BLOSSOM OF HATE, WITH ITS ROOTS SUNK DEEP IN HUMAN GREED AND JEALOUSY! THROUGH THE YEARS THE HATE FLOWER GREW UNTIL, IN THE END, IT COULD BE DROWNED ONLY BY **THE RED RAIN**...

THE STORY BEGINS IN A SMALL SOUTHERN TOWN...



AND WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING TIM JACKSON?

I'M CALLING ON LUCYBELLE! SHE ASKED ME OVER!

AIN'T I BEEN WARNING YOU TO STAY AWAY FROM LUCYBELLE, CONSUMN IT! SHE'S MY GIRL!

THAT'S FOR LUCYBELLE TO SAY, LUFÉ WAGNER— ONLY SHE SAYS I'M HER BEAU!



YOU'RE A LIAR, TIM! AND I CAN PROVE IT— LIKE THIS!

YOU—
UHHHHHHH—



LUF E WAGNER, YOU BRUTE! HOW DARE YOU HIT TIM! YOU'RE NOTHING BUT A HULKING BEAST!

BUT MISS LUCYBELLE, I THOUGHT YOU WAS MY GIRL! HE DON'T BELONG HERE!



THERE, TIM, DARLING, IT'S JUST A BRUISE! YOU'LL BE ALL RIGHT AS SOON AS I BATHE IT! COME INTO THE HOUSE!

BUT HOW ABOUT ME? I THOUGHT WE HAD A DATE!

I WOULDN'T GO OUT WITH YOU, LUF E WAGNER, IF YOU WERE THE LAST MAN ON EARTH! NOW GO AWAY—I NEVER WANT TO SEE YOU AGAIN!

YOU'LL BE SORRY FOR THIS, LUCYBELLE! I'LL GET EVEN!



THAT NIGHT, LUF E GOES TO A FAVORITE SPOT OF HIS...

I AIN'T FORGETTING EITHER OF 'EM! TREATING ME LIKE I WAS DIRT! BUT THERE'S PLENTY OF TIME!

SEVERAL WEEKS LATER...

SO THEY'RE MARRIED. HUH! PROBABLY LAUGHING AT ME! BUT I CAN WAIT FOR MY CHANCE TO GET THEM!

THERE THEY GO, THE HAPPY COUPLE!

GOOD LUCK, TIM AND LUCYBELLE!



BUT THE YEARS
BRING CHANGES!
LIFE WAGNER
LEAVES TOWN
FOR A TIME
AND AFTER A
FEW YEARS OF
HAPPY MARRIAGE,
LUCYBELLE DIES
SUDDENLY! TIM
OPENS A SMALL
STORE, AND
STRANGELY
ENOUGH...

I'M GLAD YOU CAME BACK
TO TOWN, LIFE! I NEEDED
HELP IN THE STORE, AND
BYGONES ARE BYGONES!

SURE WAS NICE
OF YOU TO GIVE
ME THIS JOB,
TIM!

THAT'S OKAY, LIFE! I
THINK LUCYBELLE WOULD
HAVE WANTED US TO BE
FRIENDS AGAIN! AND SINCE
I HAVE NO KIN, I'VE
ARRANGED FOR YOU TO
HAVE THE STORE IF
ANYTHING HAPPENS
TO ME!

YOU MEAN
YOU WOULD
LEAVE ME
THE STORE?

WHAT A MISERABLE,
SENTIMENTAL FOOL
HE IS — THINKS I'VE
FORGOTTEN HOW HE
TOOK LUCY AWAY
FROM ME! BUT I
HAVEN'T — I STILL
HATE HIM LIKE
POISON!

THAT NIGHT,
IN HIS ATTIC
OVER THE STORE,
LIFE PACES
FURIOUSLY...

I JUST CAN'T STAND IT, I
HATE HIM SO MUCH! I'VE
GOT TO DO SOMETHING —
TONIGHT!

SO AFTER
THE VILLAGE
CLOCK TOLLS
MIDNIGHT...

NOW, AT LAST!
I'LL CUT HIS
HEART OUT!
I CAN ALWAYS
SAY SOME
BURGLAR BROKE
IN AND DID IT!



BUT AT THE
LAST MOMENT...

I—I C-CAN'T DO IT!
I'M AFRAID! IT'S TOO
RISKY — TOO MANY PEOPLE
KNOW HOW TIM AND ME USED
TO HATE EACH OTHER! THEY'D
HANG ME SURE!

BACK
IN THE
ATTIC...

DRAIT IT— I
LOST MY
NERVE! BUT
I'LL FIND
ANOTHER WAY,
A SAFER WAY!
I'LL GET HIM
YET!



ONE
DAY...

HMM— SAYS IN THE PAPER THERE WAS A
LYNCHING OVER IN SCOTTVILLE YESTERDAY—
THE CROWD STRUNG UP SOME GUY THAT
KILLED A WOMAN! NEVER EVEN GAVE
HIM A TRIAL...



A LYNCHING! THAT'S MY ANSWER RIGHT
THERE! IF I CAN FRAME THAT VARMINT
OF A TIM JACKSON SO A MOB WILL
STRING HIM UP! I'LL HAVE MY
REVENGE AND NOBODY
WILL EVER KNOW!



THAT NIGHT, LUFK REVISITS HIS
FAVORITE THINKING SPOT...

I'VE GOT TO BE CAREFUL SO I AIN'T INVOLVED!
IT WON'T BE EASY TO FRAME TIM, 'CAUSE SO
MANY PEOPLE LIKE HIM! BUT I MUST
THINK OF SOMETHING!



OF COURSE—OLD AUNT BECKY!
EVERYBODY LOVES HER, AND IF
ANYTHING WAS TO
HAPPEN TO HER,
THE TOWN WOULD
GO CRAZY! NOW
I KNOW WHAT
TO DO!



LATER

AS THE UNSUSPECTING
TIM SLEEPS...

ONLY FIRST I'VE GOT TO GET BACK
TO THE STORE AND GET SOMETHING
OF TIM'S TO PLANT ON THE SCENE
OF THE CRIME! AND I GOT JUST
THE THING IN MIND!



THIS WATCH THAT
LUCYBELLE GAVE HIM IS
JUST THE THING! HE'S
ALWAYS SHOWING IT TO
FOLKS AND BRAGGING
ABOUT HOW SHE HAD IT
ENGRAVED AND ALL!
THIS WILL HANG HIM
SURE!



WITH HIS FIENDISH PLAN COMPLETED, LUFE GOES TO A SMALL HOUSE ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF TOWN, WHERE LIVES A LITTLE OLD WOMAN KNOWN ONLY AS AUNT BECKY! FOR YEARS IT HAS BEEN AUNT BECKY WHO TENDS THE SICK AND NEEDY OF THE TOWN! EVERYONE LOVED HER...



I SEE A LIGHT, SO SHE IS STILL UP, AND I WON'T HAVE ANY TROUBLE GETTING IN—AUNT BECKY NEVER TURNED ANYBODY AWAY IN HER LIFE!

WELL, LUFE WAGNER—COME IN! SUPPOSE YOU'RE IN SOME TROUBLE AND WANT ME TO FIX IT!

YES, AUNTIE, I NEED YOUR HELP!



SUDDENLY...

SORRY, OLD WOMAN, BUT YOU'RE GOING TO HELP ME—GET EVEN WITH TIM JACKSON!



SHE'S DEAD! NOW I'LL JUST TAKE THIS BILLFOLD OF HERS AND...



NOW ALL I GOT TO DO IS GET BACK INTO THE STORE WITHOUT BEING SEEN! THEN THE JOB IS ALMOST DONE—AND NOBODY CAN EVER CONNECT ME WITH IT!



... LEAVE TIM'S WATCH HERE BESIDE THE BODY WHERE SOMEONE WILL BE SURE TO FIND IT FIRST THING!



THE FOOL IS STILL SLEEPING LIKE A BABY! I'LL JUST SLIP AUNT BECKY'S BILLFOLD UNDER HIS MATTRESS AND—PLEASANT DREAMS, TIM!





GET TIM JACKSON!

STRING HIM UP!

MUST HAVE FOUND AUNT BECKY'S BODY! THEY'RE—(CHUCKLE)—COMING AFTER TIM!

WE GOT YOU, YOU MURDERING DOG!

N-NO! THIS IS A TERRIBLE MISTAKE! I'M INNOCENT!

HAH—INNOCENT! WE FOUND YER WATCH—AND HERE'S AUNT BECKY'S BILL-FOLD!



THAT'S EVIDENCE ENOUGH FOR ANYONE! BRING HIM ALONG TO THE HANGING TREE!

NO! PLEASE—I TELL YOU I DIDN'T DO IT! YOU CAN'T LYNCH ME—YOU CAN'T!

CAN'T WE THOUGH?



NO—EEEEEE—

PULL THE ROPE TIGHT, BOYS! HE'LL NEVER MURDER ANOTHER WOMAN!



HAH-HA, TIM JACKSON! I TOLD YOU I'D GET EVEN AND I HAVE! YOU TOOK LUCYBELLE, BUT WHO'S LAUGHING NOW?



HUH! 'BLOOD!' B-BUT A HANGED MAN DOESN'T BLEED!



A STORM COME UP ALL OF A SUDDEN!
AND IT'S **YIIIIIIIIII** — R-RAINING
BLOOD!

AND REACHES THE STORE...

INSIDE AT LAST! I'M—(GASP)—
SAFE FROM THE BLOOD NOW!
GAAAA—IT WAS HORRIBLE—
MUST HAVE BEEN A
JUDGMENT ON ME!



BUT THE ATTIC IS A SHAMBLES!
BLOOD DRIPS EVERYWHERE...



AAAAAAAAAAAA—MORE OF IT! IT'S NO
USE TRYING TO GET AWAY! I KNOW
WHAT I GOTTA DO!

**GRAZED BY TERROR, LIFE RUNS THROUGH
THE DESERTED VILLAGE...**

AAAAAAA—BLOOD EVERYWHERE, SOAKING
ME THROUGH! I GOT TO GET OUT OF IT
OR I'LL GO NUTS!



YAAAA—NOW IT'S COMING
IN THROUGH THE ROOF!
BUT I D-DON'T
REMEMBER ANY LEAK—
G-GOT TO STOP IT!



I'LL FIX THAT
LEAK AND THEN I WON'T HAVE
TO SEE THE BLOOD! I CAN'T
STAND THE SIGHT OF IT—BUT
IF I CAN SHUT IT OUT, I'LL GET
MY NERVE
BACK!

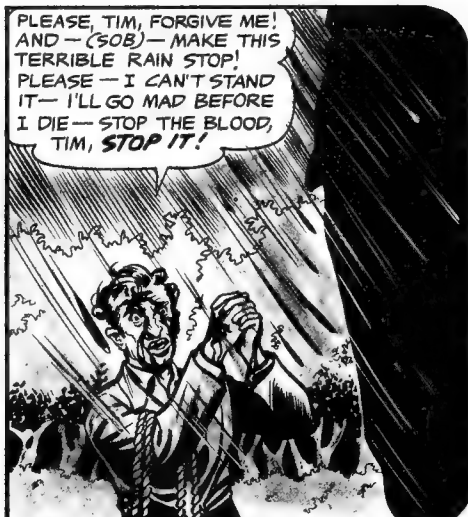


ONLY ONE THING WILL STOP
THE BLOOD COMING FROM
THE SKY—MY DEATH! THIS
IS TIM'S REVENGE ON ME!
I KNOW WHAT HE
WANTS!





I'M HERE TIM! I'M GOING TO JOIN YOU IN A MINUTE! I'M SORRY FOR WHAT I DONE— YOU GOT TO FORGIVE ME!



PLEASE, TIM, FORGIVE ME! AND— (SOB)— MAKE THIS TERRIBLE RAIN STOP! PLEASE— I CAN'T STAND IT— I'LL GO MAD BEFORE I DIE— STOP THE BLOOD, TIM, **STOP IT!**



AAAAHHHHH—



I— I'M DYING— CHOKING TO DEATH— BUT THE RAIN HAS STOPPED! OH, THANK— **GAAAAA—**



LIKE RIPE BLACK FRUIT, THE TWO FIGURES DANGLE FROM THE TREE...



EVER SEE SUCH A FUNNY RAIN, CHET? HIGH SCARED MY OLD LADY TO DEATH!

SOME FELLOW ON THE RADIO WAS EXPLAINING ALL ABOUT IT!

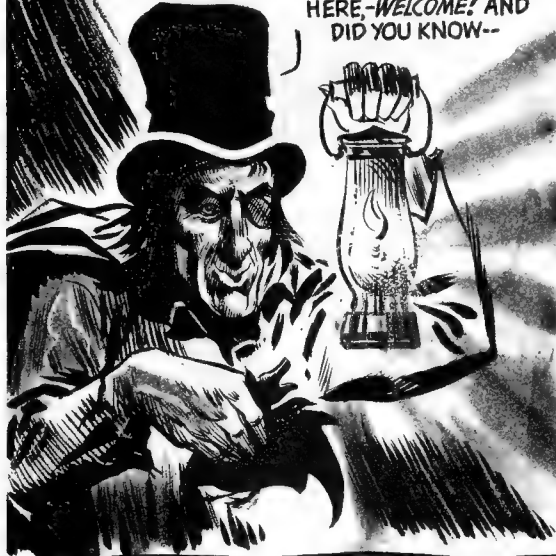


...PARTS OF THE DEEP SOUTH EXPERIENCED A CURIOUS PHENOMENON TODAY! RUST COLORED RAIN, CAUSED BY TINY IRON PARTICLES IN THE AIR, FELL OVER A WIDE AREA! SOME PEOPLE AT FIRST THOUGHT BLOOD WAS FALLING FROM THE SKIES!



FACTS for GHOULS

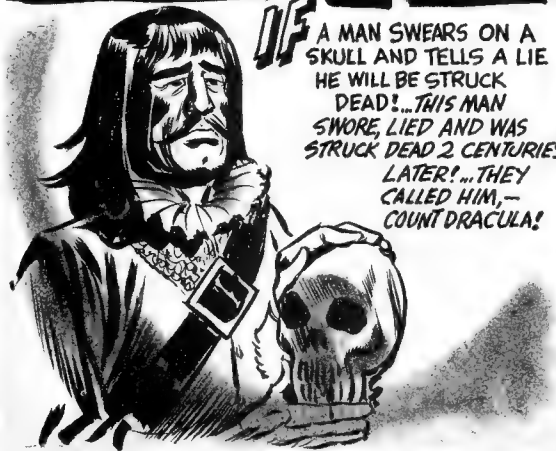
...ER.. HUMPH... PARDON ME BUT I DIDN'T EXPECT COMPANY AT DINNER-TIME! BUT, SINCE YOU'RE HERE, -WELCOME! AND DID YOU KNOW--



IF THE PALMS OF A BABY ARE WASHED BEFORE HE IS A YEAR OLD, THE CHILD WILL NEVER HAVE MONEY! ...NO WONDER TWO THIRDS OF THE WORLD IS POOR!

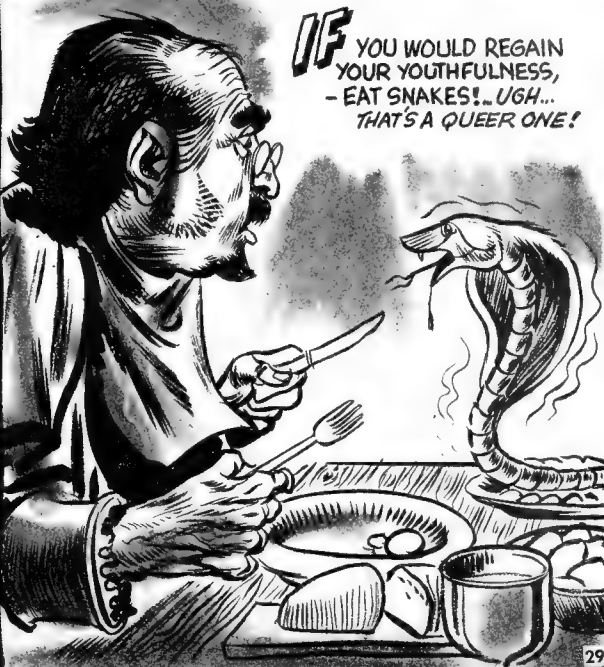


IF A MAN SWEARS ON A SKULL AND TELLS A LIE HE WILL BE STRUCK DEAD!...THIS MAN SWORE, LIED AND WAS STRUCK DEAD 2 CENTURIES LATER!...THEY CALLED HIM, -COUNT DRACULA!



--THE LAST CORPSE TO ENTER A CEMETARY MUST GUARD THE OTHER GRAVES!...PST.. THIS CEMETARY WAS ABANDONED IN 1800... HIMMN?!

IF YOU WOULD REGAIN YOUR YOUTHFULNESS, - EAT SNAKES!.. UGH... THAT'S A QUEER ONE!



WHEN A MAN WANTS TO LIVE AWAY FROM ALL OTHERS AND HAVE NO CONTACT WITH HIS FELLOW BEINGS, SOMETHING IS WRONG... THE LIFE HE SEEKS IS USUALLY JUST DEATH, HASTENING TOWARD HIM, LIKE A LOVER WITH OPEN ARMS REACHING OUT... THESE TWO KNOW EACH OTHER, THE MAN, AND THE DEATH HE CHOOSES TO CALL HIS OWN...SUBCONSCIOUSLY, LAWRENCE MASON KNEW IT, TOO, WHEN HE SUCCUMBED TO THE GIRL WHO LURED HIM TO A PIT OF...

HISSING HORROR



TO BEGIN WITH, LAWRENCE MASON WAS A PARADOX. HE LIVED IN LUXURY ON AN ISLAND HE HATED. HERE, ALONE HE LIVED A STRANGE AND BITTER EXISTENCE...

SOMETIMES I'M TEMPTED TO LEAVE!



THOSE BLASTED SNAKES. BUT THEY WON'T GET THE BETTER OF ME... I'LL KEEP KILLING THEM UNTIL THE LAST ONE IS GONE!











MASON'S GUEST WAS ALMOST SILENT DURING THE DAY... BY EVENING, SHE ASKED TO SEE THE GROUNDS, AND RELUCTANTLY HE AGREED...

THE ISLAND IS BEAUTIFUL, BUT FOR THE SNAKES...

YES. IT IS A BEAUTIFUL PLACE TO LIVE!



BE CAREFUL! OHH...

AIEEEE—



SHE'S DISAPPEARED! WHAT IS THIS PLACE? IT'S NOT ONE OF MY SNAKE PITS! A CAVE!



...HORROR STRUCK MASON'S HEART AS HE PEERED INTO THE BLACKNESS...

GOT TO FIND HER! THAT POOR GIRL IS A VICTIM OF MISFORTUNE! IF ANYTHING HAPPENS TO HER, I'LL NEVER FORGIVE MYSELF!



THE PITCH DARKNESS SERVED TO ENLIGHTEN MASON... HE MADE A REMARKABLE DISCOVERY...

I LOVE HER! I NEVER DREAMED THERE COULD BE SUCH A WOMAN! I MUST FIND HER... I'LL TELL HER... BEG HER TO MARRY ME...



HER VOICE! SHE'S SOBBING! WEEPING IN TERROR... HOW STRANGE HER CRIES SOUND! ONE WOULD ALMOST MISTAKE IT FOR LAUGHTER!

I'M COMING! HERE I AM... WHERE ARE YOU?

THE FLASH BEAM SUDDENLY IMPRISONED THE GIRL... MASON GASPED IN RELIEF... SHE WAS UNHURT... SHE LOOKED LIKE AN ANCIENT STATUE... BEAUTIFUL... AND ODDLY CALM...



YOU'RE SUFFERING SHOCK, MY DEAR! LET'S GET OUT OF THIS DREADFUL PLACE! I'LL TRY TO MAKE UP FOR ALL THESE GRIM EXPERIENCES...

NO. I HAVE NO WISH TO LEAVE...



NO... DON'T TRY TO PULL ME ALONG! I TELL YOU THERE IS NO LEAVING THIS PLACE... NOW OR EVER!

YOU'RE JUST HYSTERICAL! COME... I THINK I REMEMBER HOW TO GET BACK TO THE ENTRANCE!



BUT SUDDENLY A CRY ROSE IN MASON'S FEAR-TIGHTENED THROAT AND FROZE ON HIS LIPS... HE STARED IN DISBELIEF, AND MOTION REFUSED TO TAKE HOLD OF HIS LIMBS THAT WANTED TO RUN AND RUN...



STAY BEHIND ME... PERHAPS THEY WILL BE SATISFIED IN KILLING ONLY ME...

I TOLD YOU... THERE IS NO LEAVING HERE...



BUT I CAN TRY! I LOVE YOU! I'LL PROTECT YOU! EMPTY MY GUN... MAYBE THE SHOTS WILL FRIGHTEN THE OTHERS AWAY!

TOO LATE!



A THOUSAND STINGING BARBS STRUCK HIS BODY AT A SINGLE STROKE... POISON SHOT INTO HIS VEINS AND CREATED AN INSTANT ROARING FIRE OF PAIN... BUT MASON DID NOT DROP, FOR HE WAS STARING AT THE WOMAN HE LOVED...



I'M DYING, I KNOW... BUT YOU... WHAT IS HAPPENING TO YOU? IS IT BECAUSE I HAVE GONE MAD AS WELL?

YOUR DEATH TIME IS SLOWER THAN YOU HOPE FOR, MAN. AND YOU ARE NOT CLOUDED BY ANY MADNESS!



YOU SEE WHAT YOU SEE! THE QUEEN OF THE KINGDOM YOU TRIED TO DESTROY! HOW WE LOATHE YOU! INDEED I HAVE PROVEN AS MUCH BY TAKING ON ANOTHER FORM TO LURE YOU HERE...



... YOU WEAK FOOL! I MADE YOU LOVE WHAT YOU HATED! WE ROAMED THE EARTH AGES BEFORE YOUR KIND CAME TO TROUBLE US AND TO KILL US... BUT IN THE END WE WILL TAKE OVER AGAIN...



THE HISSING VOICE... THAT SPOKE HUMAN WORDS CONTINUED AND MASON TRIED TO DIE... TRIED TO ESCAPE A HAUNTING FACT... ALL OF HIS LIFE HE HAD BEEN A COWARD... A MAN AFRAID OF SNAKES... AND LIFE...



IT'S OVER, MY PETS... BUT THERE WILL BE OTHERS... AND THEY, TOO, WILL DESTROY THEMSELVES...



SO ENDS THE EERIE TALE OF LAWRENCE MASON... A MAN WHO LIVED AND LOST!

The End

GREETINGS, FRIENDS, FIENDS, AND DEAR, DEADLY FELLOW-CREATURES! GATHER 'ROUND WHILE I BEAT THE TOMTOM THAT MAKES THE VICIOUS VIPERS BLEND WITH THE VOODOO CALL! I, THE VOODOO DOCTOR, WILL INTRODUCE YOU TO ROY GIFFORD, OF THE NATIONAL FRUIT COMPANY WHO CAME TO CASTLE MORENO, IN THE HILLS OF HISPANIOLA, THINKING HE WOULD CORNER THE BANANA MARKET...

The Witch Doctor recounts the weird story of

The ZOMBI'S Bride



TO REACH CASTLE MORENO, ROY STOPPED FIRST AT A LITTLE TOWN HIGH IN THE MOUNTAINS WHERE AN OLD INN CALLED "LE CHEVAL NOIR" WAS RUN BY AN UGLY RUFFIAN NAMED VICTOR.

AH, M'SIEU GIFFORD, THE GENERAL MUST BE EXPECTING YOU! A CARRIAGE IS COMING ALREADY TO TAKE YOU UP

YES, MY COMPANY SENT ME TO BUY HIS ENTIRE BANANA CROP!

TO CASTLE MORENO!



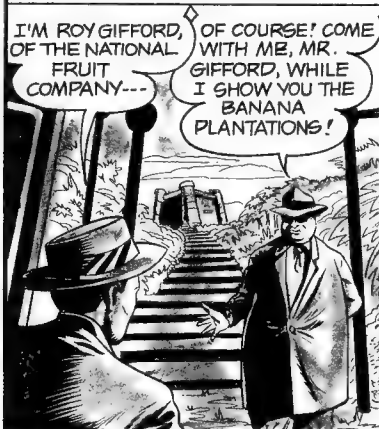
BUT GENERAL MORENO IS VERY FORGETFUL, M'SIEU! HE EVEN FORGETS THAT HE IS TO MARRY MY BEAUTIFUL DAUGHTER, GABRIELLE! WOULD YOU

WHY, OF COURSE!

REMAND HIM WHEN YOU SEE HIM?



SO ROY GIFFORD RODE UP TO CASTLE MORENO, WHERE HE WAS GREETED BY GENERAL MORENO IN PERSON...



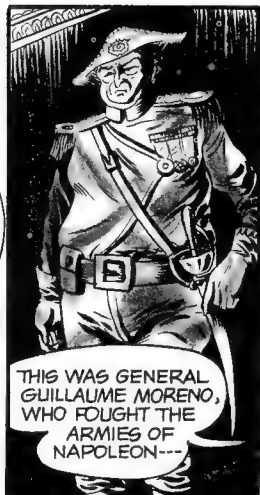
I'M ROY GIFFORD, OF THE NATIONAL FRUIT COMPANY---

OF COURSE! COME WITH ME, MR. GIFFORD, WHILE I SHOW YOU THE BANANA PLANTATIONS!

AND EVERYWHERE, AS FAR AS THE EYE COULD VIEW, ROY SAW BANANAS-- AND MORE BANANAS... YES, GENERAL MORENO HAD PLENTY OF BANANAS!

A WONDERFUL CROP! BUT HOW CAN YOU GATHER THE BANANAS AT THE PRICE YOU'VE OFFERED THEM TO NATIONAL FRUIT?

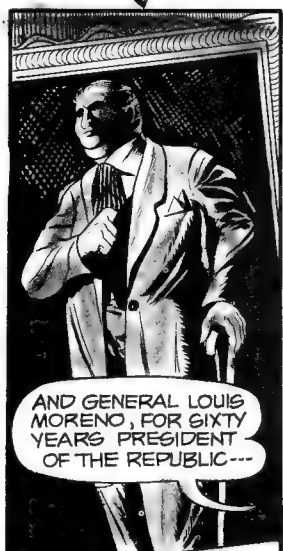
THE MORENOS HAVE ALWAYS HANDLED THAT PROBLEM SATISFACTORILY! COME INTO THE CASTLE, MR. GIFFORD, AND I'LL SHOW YOU SOME OF MY ANCESTORS!



THIS WAS GENERAL GUILLAUME MORENO, WHO FOUGHT THE ARMIES OF NAPOLEON---



AND HERE IS GENERAL ANTOINE MORENO, WHO FOUGHT THE ARMIES THAT FOUGHT NAPOLEON---



AND GENERAL LOUIS MORENO, FOR SIXTY YEARS PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC---



AND GENERAL PIERRE MORENO GENERAL IN CHIEF OF OUR ARMY DURING BOTH WORLD WARS!

RECOGNIZE ME, EVEN WITH THE MASK? YOUR OLD PAL, THE WITCH DOCTOR! WELL, THAT'S THE WAY THOSE PORTRAITS STRUCK ROY GIFFORD! THEIR COSTUMES WERE DIFFERENT, BUT THEY WERE THE SAME GENERAL MORENO, THE VERY ONE HE TALKED WITH!

YES, IN THE CENTURY AND A HALF OF THIS NATION'S EXISTENCE, THE NAME OF GENERAL MORENO HAS REMAINED SUPREME!

YOU'RE TO BE CONGRATULATED, GENERAL, FOR ALL YOU HAVE ACCOMPLISHED! YOU AND YOUR ANCESTORS, I MEAN---

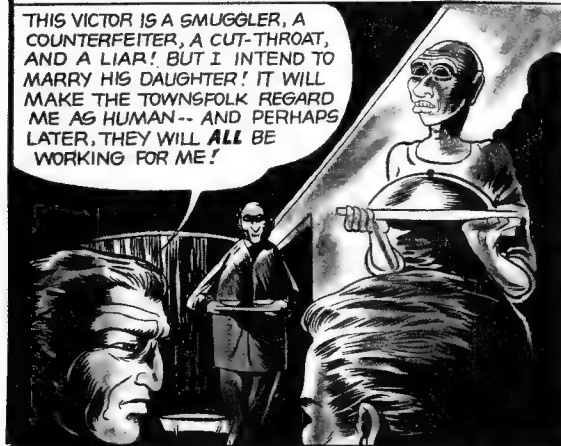
BUT SPEAKING OF THE MORENO FAMILY, VICTOR THE INN KEEPER SAID THAT YOU INTEND TO MARRY HIS DAUGHTER, GABRIELLE!

WHY, YES--- BUT DINNER IS READY! WE CAN DISCUSS THE SUBJECT LATER!



IT WAS STRANGE DINING IN A GLOOMY HALL WHERE STOLID SERVANTS MOVED MECHANICALLY WITH COLD, FIXED STARES...

THIS VICTOR IS A SMUGGLER, A COUNTERFEITER, A CUT-THROAT, AND A LIAR! BUT I INTEND TO MARRY HIS DAUGHTER! IT WILL MAKE THE TOWNSFOLK REGARD ME AS HUMAN-- AND PERHAPS LATER, THEY WILL **ALL** BE WORKING FOR ME!



AND AFTER DINNER, ROY SAW MORE OF THE FACE-LESS SERVITORS AS MORENO SHOWED HIM THROUGH THE CASTLE...

THIS IS MY TROPHY ROOM! HERE I KEEP WEAPONS THAT I HAVE USED-- I MEAN THAT MY **FAMILY** HAS USED-- DURING THE PAST 150 YEARS!



HERE, FOR EXAMPLE, ARE TWO DUELING REVOLVERS, A PERFECTLY MATCHED PAIR, BOTH MUZZLE-LOADERS!



THEY EVEN HAVE A MOLD IN WHICH BULLETS CAN BE CAST! IT BELONGS WITH THE SET OF REVOLVERS!

HOW REMARKABLE!



SINCE YOU ADMIRE THEM SO GREATLY, TAKE THEM AS A MEMENTO OF YOUR STAY IN CASTLE MORENO!



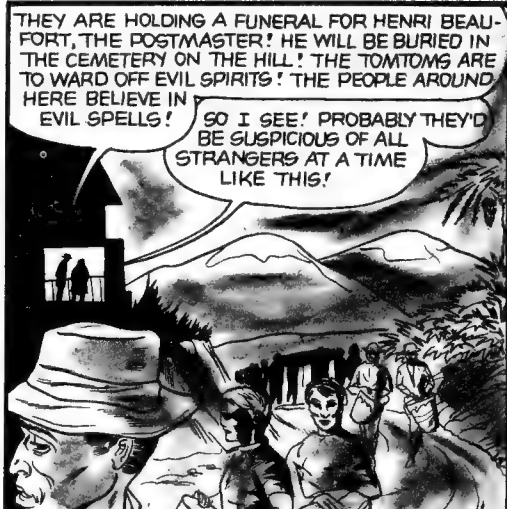
WHY--WHY, THANK YOU, GENERAL---

ANOTHER OF THE CREEPY, INCREDIBLY INHUMAN SERVANTS USHERED ROY TO A ROOM HIGH IN A CASTLE TURRET...



WHERE FROM HIS VANTAGE POINT, ROY VIEWED PROCESSIONS OF WORKERS GATHERING BANANAS BY MOONLIGHT!





NATURALLY, ROY GIFFORD HURRIED BACK UP TO THE CASTLE AND THERE, WHEN GENERAL MORENO RETURNED, ROY GREETED HIM WITH A DEAD PAN EXPRESSION LIKE ONE OF MY MASKS...



ONE OF MY SERVANTS SAID YOU WERE LOOKING FOR ME!



YES, I STARTED OVER TO THE BRIDGE, BUT LOST THE WAY, SO I CAME BACK! I THINK I'D BETTER GO DOWN TO THE INN AND SEND THAT CABLE!

AN EXCELLENT IDEA! I'LL HAVE THE CARRIAGE MADE READY SO WE CAN GO TOGETHER! THEN I CAN TALK TO THE INN KEEPER ABOUT HIS DAUGHTER!



I WONDER... DOES MORENO SUSPECT?

AT THE INN, MORENO'S ARRIVAL WAS THE CAUSE FOR GREAT CELEBRATION...

NOW'S MY CHANCE TO SLIDE INTO THE INN AND SPILL THIS ZOMBI BUSINESS!



AH, GABRIELLE -- MA CHERIE!

AH, GENERAL MORENO, MY SWEET! YOU HAVE COME FOR ME AT LAST!

BUT ROY SOON FOUND OUT THAT HE WAS UNDER CONSTANT WATCH BY ONE OF MORENO'S SERVANTS...

IT IS NOT WISE TO TALK TO PEOPLE AT THE INN!

I'M JUST BUYING WINE FOR EVERYONE, IN HONOR OF GENERAL MORENO AND HIS BRIDE-TO-BE!

AH-- AMERICAN MONEY!



I CANNOT GIVE YOU CHANGE IN AMERICAN MONEY, M'SIEU! BUT I CAN TAKE OUT FOR THE WINE AND GIVE YOU CHANGE IN SILVER PESOS! WILL THAT DO?

OF COURSE!



GIVE US MORE WINE AND GIVE ME CHANGE IN MORE PESOS!



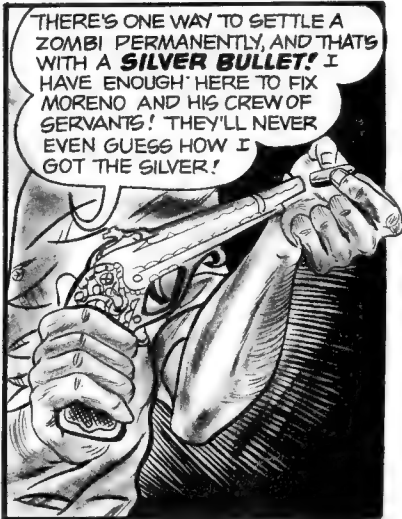
AND STILL MORE WINE-- AND STILL MORE PESOS!



YES, A GRAND IDEA WAS BURNING THROUGH ROY'S FEVERED BRAIN--A VERY GRAND IDEA INVOLVING SILVER PESOS!



SO THE CARRIAGE RETURNED TO CASTLE MORENO, TAKING ALONG ONE MORE PASSENGER...



YES, ROY GIFFORD WAS RIGHT! NO ZOMBI CAN STOMACH A SILVER BULLET! HA! JUST IMAGINE A ZOMBI HAVING A WEAK STOMACH! ANYWAY, ROY WAS SMART! HE'D EVEN TIPPED OFF HIS MITT TO THE TOWNSFOLK!

LOOK, THIS CABLE THE AMERICAN GAVE ME! IT IS NOT A CABLE AT ALL! IT SAYS: "GENERAL MORENO IS A MASTER ZOMBI-- ALL HIS SERVANTS ARE ZOMBIES!"

WE MUST LOAD OUR GUNS WITH SILVER BULLETS AND GO TO THE CASTLE!

DRINK THIS WINE, MY LOVE-- AS A PLEDGE OF OUR TROTH!

WAIT, GABRIELLE! THAT WINE IS POISONED! MORENO WANTS TO KILL YOU SO HE CAN REVIVE YOU AS A ZOMBI AND MAKE YOU HIS SLAVE FOREVER!

THESE SILVER BULLETS WILL SETTLE YOU, MORENO!

AND THAT GOES FOR YOU AS WELL, CREEP!

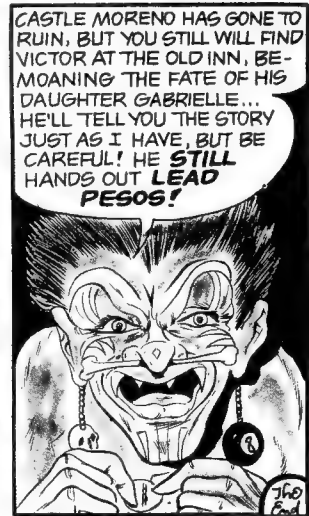
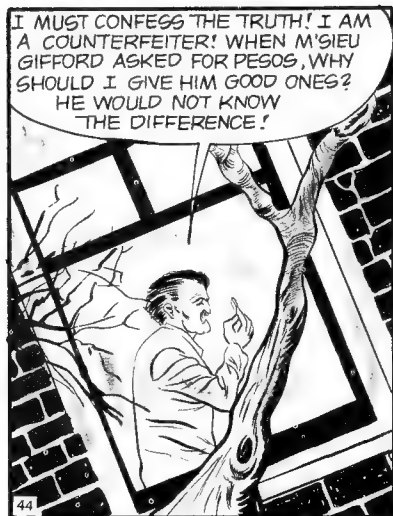
-- AND YOU!

--AND YOU!

BUT TO ROY'S HORROR AND AMAZEMENT, **NONE** OF THE BULLETS TOOK EFFECT! HE WAS INSTANTLY OVERWHELMED!

FLING THE FOOL FROM THE CLIFF! THAT IS THE FATE OF ALL WHO WOULD FOIL MORENO!

SO THAT WAS THE END OF ROY GIFFORD! BUT DON'T GO AWAY! WE STILL HAVE OTHER CHARACTERS TO DEAL WITH...AND **WHAT** CHARACTERS!



MIKE MCCOY WAS THE UNLUCKIEST GUY IN THE WORLD—SO UNLUCKY THAT HE SHOULD NEVER BEEN A CROOK! BUT HE WAS, AND THE FATES LAUGHED AS THEY WATCHED HIM SPIN HIS OWN WEB OF DESTRUCTION! AND IN THE GRIM ENDING, THE SCREAMS OF THREE NOT SO NICE PEOPLE SOUNDED AROUND A KITCHEN TABLE ON THE MORNING THAT DEATH CAME TO BREAKFAST...

Sound of Mourning



AND NOW, MY LITTLE 'DOLL, WE'LL SEE HOW OUR TOY WORKS! DON'T BE AFRAID! THIS WON'T HURT—MUCH!

WE SET THE STAGE FOR OUR TERRIBLE LITTLE OPUS—MEET THE PRINCIPALS.

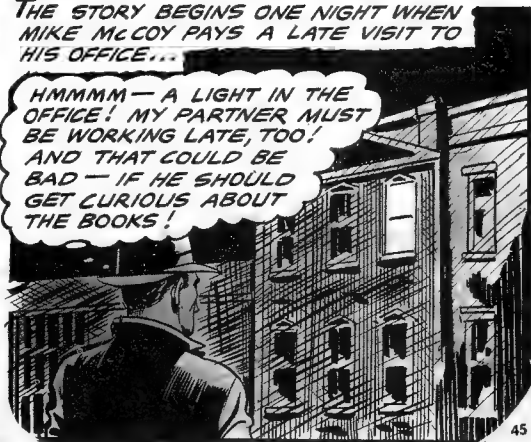
I'M BILL POINDEXTER, A LAWYER!

I'M EVA MCCOY, MIKE'S WIFE! I HATE HIM!

I'M MIKE MCCOY! I'M A CROOK—TO BE EXACT, AN EMBEZZLER!

THE STORY BEGINS ONE NIGHT WHEN MIKE MCCOY PAYS A LATE VISIT TO HIS OFFICE...

HMMMM—A LIGHT IN THE OFFICE! MY PARTNER MUST BE WORKING LATE, TOO! AND THAT COULD BE BAD—IF HE SHOULD GET CURIOUS ABOUT THE BOOKS!



BUT THE SOUND OF A SHOT FROM THE OFFICE DRIVES EVERYTHING FROM MIKE'S HEAD! HE DASHES UP-STAIRS...

BANG!

GOOD GRIEF! THAT SHOT CAME FROM OUR OFFICE!

AND ENTERS ON A SCENE OF HORROR! HIS PARTNER, SOL CATHER, IS STRETCHED DEAD ON THE FLOOR...

O-DEAD! SHOT! AND THE WINDOW-OPEN! WHOEVER DID IT MUST HAVE LEFT THAT WAY!

WITHOUT THINKING, MIKE MAKES HIS FIRST MISTAKE! HE PICKS UP A PISTOL WHICH LIES ON THE FLOOR AND PEERS OUT INTO THE NIGHT...

THE KILLER MUST HAVE DROPPED THIS GUN! BUT THERE'S NO ONE—NOT A SIGN!

A MOMENT LATER...

HELLO, POLICE? THIS IS MR. MCCOY OF MCCOY AND CATHER, INVESTMENT BROKERS! THERE HAS BEEN A MURDER! YES, AT OUR OFFICE, 13 PARK ROW! MY PARTNER, MR. CATHER HAS BEEN SHOT! YES, OF COURSE, I'LL BE HERE! HURRY, PLEASE!

LATER, AS A DETECTIVE QUESTIONS MIKE...

YOUR STORY IS SORT OF FLIMSY, MCCOY! A MYSTERIOUS KILLER THAT NOBODY ELSE SAW—AND YOU ADMIT THAT YOUR PRINTS WILL BE ON THE GUN! YOU HANDLED IT?

YES, OF COURSE! IT WAS ON THE FLOOR! I PICKED IT UP WITHOUT THINKING! AND IF THE KILLER WORE GLOVES, NATURALLY MY PRINTS WILL BE THE ONLY ONES ON IT! BUT WHY ALL THIS—ARE YOU SUSPICIOUS OF ME?

SUDDENLY HE HAS A HORRID THOUGHT...

GREAT SCOTT—THE BOOKS! IF THEY FIND OUT THAT I WAS TAKING MONEY FROM THE FIRM, THEY'LL THINK I KILLED CATHER BECAUSE HE GOT WISE TO ME! THIS COULD BE SERIOUS!

AND WHILE ALL THIS HAS BEEN GOING ON—AT MIKE'S HOME SOMETHING ELSE IS HAPPENING...

WHEN ARE YOU GOING TO TELL MIKE YOU WANT A DIVORCE, MONEY? WE CAN'T GO ON LIKE THIS!

I—I DON'T KNOW, BILL! I'M AFRAID OF HIM! WITH HIS TEMPER HE MIGHT DO ANYTHING...

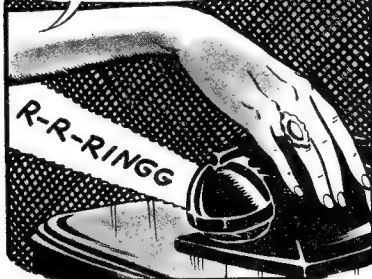
NONSENSE! WHAT CAN HE DO? I'M A LAWYER AND I OUGHT TO KNOW! ANYWAY HE DOESN'T SUSPECT ME IN THE LEAST—SO I'LL AGREE TO HANDLE THE DIVORCE AS A (CHUCKLE)—FRIEND!

BUT ON WHAT GROUNDS, BILL? YOU KNOW IT'S VERY HARD TO GET A DIVORCE IN THIS STATE!



SUDDENLY...

WAIT A MINUTE, DARLING! THAT MIGHT BE MIKE CALLING NOW! DON'T MAKE ANY NOISE!



A MINUTE LATER...

THAT WAS MIKE! HE—HE'S IN JAIL, CHARGED WITH SUSPICION OF MURDER! AND HE WANTS YOU, BILL, AT ONCE! THE POLICE THINK HE KILLED HIS PARTNER!



WHAT?

THIS IS IT, BABY! DON'T YOU SEE? I DON'T KNOW HOW MIKE GOT HIMSELF INTO THIS MESS, OR IF HE'S GUILTY OR NOT, BUT THIS IS OUR CHANCE! FORGET THE DIVORCE—BECAUSE I'M GOING TO DEFEND MIKE!



SO THE TWO LOVERS MAKE THEIR PLANS CAREFULLY! AND ALREADY IT APPEARS THAT MIKE MCCOY, INNOCENT OF MURDER THOUGH HE IS, IS AS GOOD AS IN THE ELECTRIC CHAIR...

I'LL GO DOWN AND SEE MIKE NOW! REMEMBER—LAY LOW AND DON'T TRY TO SEE ME UNTIL THIS IS OVER! AND IT WON'T—(CHUCKLE)—BE LONG!

ANYTHING YOU SAY, DEAR! BUT IT IS A LITTLE HARD ON POOR MIKE!



LATER AT THE JAIL...

IT DOES LOOK BAD FOR YOU, MIKE! WHAT A FOOL YOU WERE TO TOUCH THAT GUN—AND WHERE DID IT COME FROM ANYWAY?

THE KILLER DROPPED IT, I SUPPOSE! AND THE POLICE SAY THE SERIAL NUMBER HAD BEEN FILED OFF AND IT CAN'T BE TRACED!





SO GET ME OUT OF HERE, BILL! WE'VE BEEN FRIENDS FOR YEARS — YOU KNOW I WOULDN'T MURDER ANYBODY!



I'LL DO MY BEST, OF COURSE, OLD FRIEND! BUT ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE TELLING ME EVERYTHING?

WELL, THAT IS, I GUESS I MIGHT AS WELL TELL YOU! I— I'D BEEN TAKING MONEY FROM THE FIRM, BILL! FOR SOME TIME NOW! AND IF THE COPS FIND THAT OUT, WELL, YOU CAN SEE HOW IT WILL LOOK FOR ME!



AND WHEN THE ROGUE LAWYER LEAVES THE JAIL, HE IS VERY HAPPY INDEED! HE KNOWS THAT MIKE HAS JUST SIGNED HIS OWN DEATH WARRANT...



OH, THE FOOL! THE POOR FOOL! HE, IN PERSON, PUT THE VERY WEAPON IN MY HANDS THAT WILL CONVICT HIM! NOTHING TO IT NOW!

AND SO THE TRIAL BEGINS...



LADIES AND GENTLEMEN OF THE JURY! I, AS DISTRICT ATTORNEY, FEEL PITY AND COMPASSION FOR THIS POOR MAN ON TRIAL BEFORE US! BUT WE CANNOT ALLOW OUR PERSONAL FEELINGS TO INTERFERE WITH OUR DUTY! HE IS A MURDERER — AND A THIEF AS WELL! AND WHEN HE WAS CAUGHT EMBEZZLING THE FUNDS OF HIS FIRM...

BUT HOW DID THEY KNOW?

TOO BAD THEY FOUND OUT ABOUT THAT, MIKE!

LATER, AS BILL POINDEXTER PLEADS FOR HIS CLIENT...

HERE WE HAVE A WEAK MAN, AN HONEST CITIZEN, WHO, IN A MOMENT OF NEED AND PANIC DID WRONG! BUT I ASK YOU, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, TO SHOW MERCY...



WHAT I REALLY WANT IS — (CHUCKLE) — FOR YOU TO CONVICT HIM!

AND AFTER THE VERDICT IS BROUGHT IN...

YOU HAVE BEEN FOUND GUILTY OF MURDER, MIKE MCCOY! AND IT IS MY SOLEMN DUTY TO PRONOUNCE SENTENCE OF DEATH ON YOU! SO I ORDER YOU TO BE TAKEN FROM THIS PLACE AND CONFINED UNTIL THE WEEK OF...



NO — NO! I'M INNOCENT!

SOME MONTHS NOW PASS!
THE USUAL APPEALS ARE
MADE—AND FAIL! THEN
ONE STORMY NIGHT...

AIN'T THIS
THE NIGHT
MCCOY GOES?
THE GUY
THAT KILLED
HIS PARTNER?

YEAH—THE
POOR GUY
RIDES THE
THUNDER-
BOLT
TONIGHT!
BRRRR—

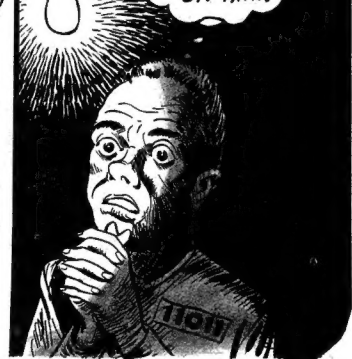
IT'S TIME
NOW, MCCOY!
TRY TO ACT
LIKE A MAN!

IT WON'T
HURT, FELLOW!
YOU'LL NEVER
FEEL IT!

I—I'M
INNOCENT!
YOU'RE
KILLING
AN INNOCENT
MAN! I
SWEAR IT!

AS A FELLOW INMATE
PRAYS FOR THE
DOOMED MAN...

THE L-LIGHT!
GOING D-DIM!
THAT MEANS
THEY'RE
TESTING
THE CHAIR!
HAVE MERCY
ON HIM!



IN THE CITY, IN THE HOME
OF EVA MCCOY...

ONLY A FEW MINUTES
NOW, BABY! MIKE DIES
AT MIDNIGHT—THEN
YOU'LL BE
FREE!

I—I'M
SUDDENLY
AFRAID! I
FEEL COLD
ALL OVER!



THIS IS NO TIME TO LOSE
YOUR NERVE, SWEETHEART!
AFTER ALL, WE DIDN'T
KILL HIM! AND
MAYBE HE
REALLY DID
KILL THE GUY!

N-NO! I—I
NEVER DID
THINK HE
WAS GUILTY!



SO, DURING A CHILLING KISS, AS A MAN DIES,
BOTH PLOTTERS REALIZE THAT THE THING
BETWEEN THEM HAS SPOILED...

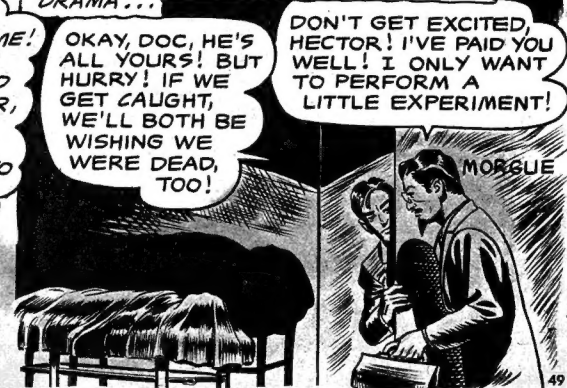
I—I DON'T LOVE HIM
ANYMORE! I THINK I
HATE HIM—AND MYSELF!
BUT WE'RE IN IT
TOGETHER NOW!

NO—IT
ISN'T THE SAME!
I FEEL DIRTY!
BUT I KILLED
MIKE FOR HER,
IN A WAY,
AND I'M
GOING TO
HAVE HER!

MEANTIME, BACK AT THE PRISON, A NEW
AND SURPRISING ELEMENT ENTERS THE
DRAMA...

OKAY, DOC, HE'S
ALL YOURS! BUT
HURRY! IF WE
GET CAUGHT,
WE'LL BOTH BE
WISHING WE
WERE DEAD,
TOO!

DON'T GET EXCITED,
HECTOR! I'VE PAID YOU
WELL! I ONLY WANT
TO PERFORM A
LITTLE EXPERIMENT!



MORGUE

THE ONE
THING THAT
EVA AND BILL
POINDEXTER
COULD NOT
POSSIBLY
KNOW—THAT
THE PRISON
DOCTOR
HAS BEEN
WORKING
FOR YEARS
ON A
FORMULA
TO RESTORE
HUMAN
LIFE...

NOW I SIMPLY
INJECT TWO
CC'S OF MY
FORMULA!
STRAIGHT INTO
HIS HEART...

YOU THINK THIS IS
GONNA WORK, DOC? YOU
CAN REALLY BRING A
GUY BACK AFTER HE'S
BEEN ELECTROCUTED?

I HOPE SO—BUT I DON'T
EXPECT MIRACLES! AT
BEST IT WILL ONLY BE
FOR A FEW MINUTES,
POSSIBLY AN HOUR!
REMEMBER THAT THE
TISSUES AND ORGANS
HAVE BEEN BADLY
BURNT!

YEAH, I
GUESS SO!
BUT I
DON'T LIKE—
HEY, YOU
HEAR SOME-
THING, DOC?



THE DEAD MAN, BROUGHT BACK TO LIFE
FOR A LITTLE TIME, CRUSHES THEIR
HEADS TOGETHER...

SORRY! BUT ALL
YOU'LL GET IS A
BAD HEADACHE!

UHHHHHH—

OWWWW—

SPLATT



NOW, THANKS TO YOU,
DOCTOR, I'VE GOT A
LITTLE TIME! AN
HOUR AT THE MOST,
I THINK YOU SAID!
AND AN HOUR SHOULD
BE LONG ENOUGH
TO DO—WHAT I
WANT TO DO!



SO MIKE MCCOY GETS A
SECOND CHANCE! AS THE FALSE
DAWN BREAKS IN THE EAST, HE
GETS OUT OF THE PRISON BY
THE SIMPLE EXPEDIENT OF
DONNING THE DOCTOR'S CLOTHES
AND DRIVING OUT OF THE GATES
IN THE DOCTOR'S CAR! HE
KNOWS THAT HE HASN'T MUCH
TIME, BECAUSE WHEN THE
FORMULA WEARS OFF, HE WILL
DIE AGAIN! AND NOW HE DRIVES
IMMEDIATELY TO HIS HOUSE—AND
SEES WHAT HE KNEW
HE WOULD SEE...

SO VERY HAPPY, AREN'T
THEY? TOASTING MY DEATH
IN MY CHAMPAGNE! THE
DEVILS! I KNEW THAT BILL
WAS DOUBLE-CROSSING
ME—AND NOW I
UNDERSTAND WHY!





MONSTER

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7 FEET TALL

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ONLY \$1.00

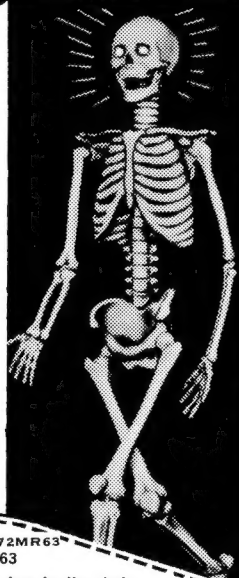
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Lynbrook, N.Y. 11563

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I enclose \$1 plus 25c for postage and handling for each. If I don't get shivers of delight, I can return my purchase within 10 days and you will refund the full purchase price.

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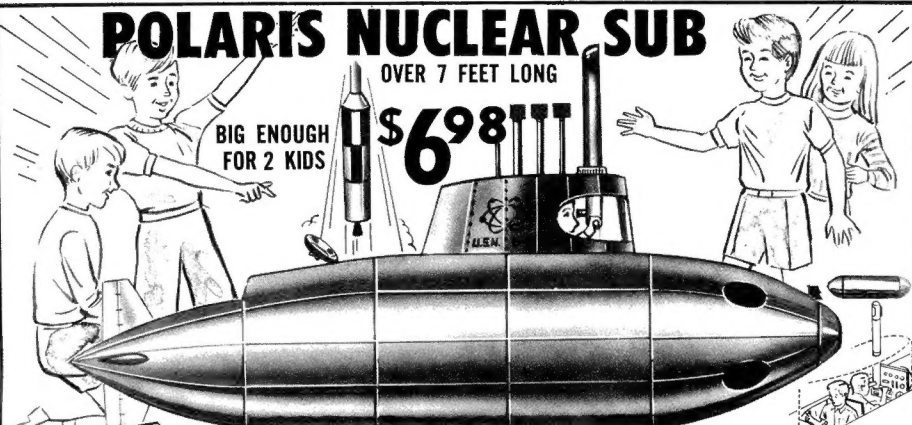
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OVER 7 FEET LONG

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FIGHTING AGAINST TIME NOW, MIKE GOES AROUND TO THE KITCHEN AND SOFTLY ENTERS...

THEY WON'T BE SLEEPING TONIGHT—AND SOON THEY'LL BE HUNGRY, WANT SOME BREAKFAST! AND I'LL HAVE EVERYTHING READY!

THIS OLD WIRE FROM THE CLOSET WILL DO! THEN I'LL HIDE IT UNDER THE CARPETING AND HOOK IT INTO THE TRANSFORMER IN THE BASEMENT!

MIKE MCCOY FLICKS A SWITCH, AND...

THERE! NOW ALL I DO IS WAIT— THEN I'LL SEE HOW THEY LIKE IT! OH—I THINK I HEAR THEM COMING NOW!

I'VE WON! SHE— MY LOVING WIFE IS GOING TO FIX SOME COFFEE FOR MY BEST AND TRUE FRIEND! AS SOON AS THEY SIT DOWN...

OWWWWWWW—

UGNNNNNNNNN—

LATER—A FIRE OF UNEXPLAINED ORIGIN...

HA-HA-HA-HA—D-DID IT! I ELECTROCUTED **THEM**! HE-HEE—OH—MY HEART! D-DYING AGAIN!

SHE'S GOING TO THE GROUND, CHIEF! HOW DO YOU THINK IT STARTED?

WHO KNOWS? BUT IF ANYONE WAS IN THERE—THEY'RE DEAD NOW!

The End